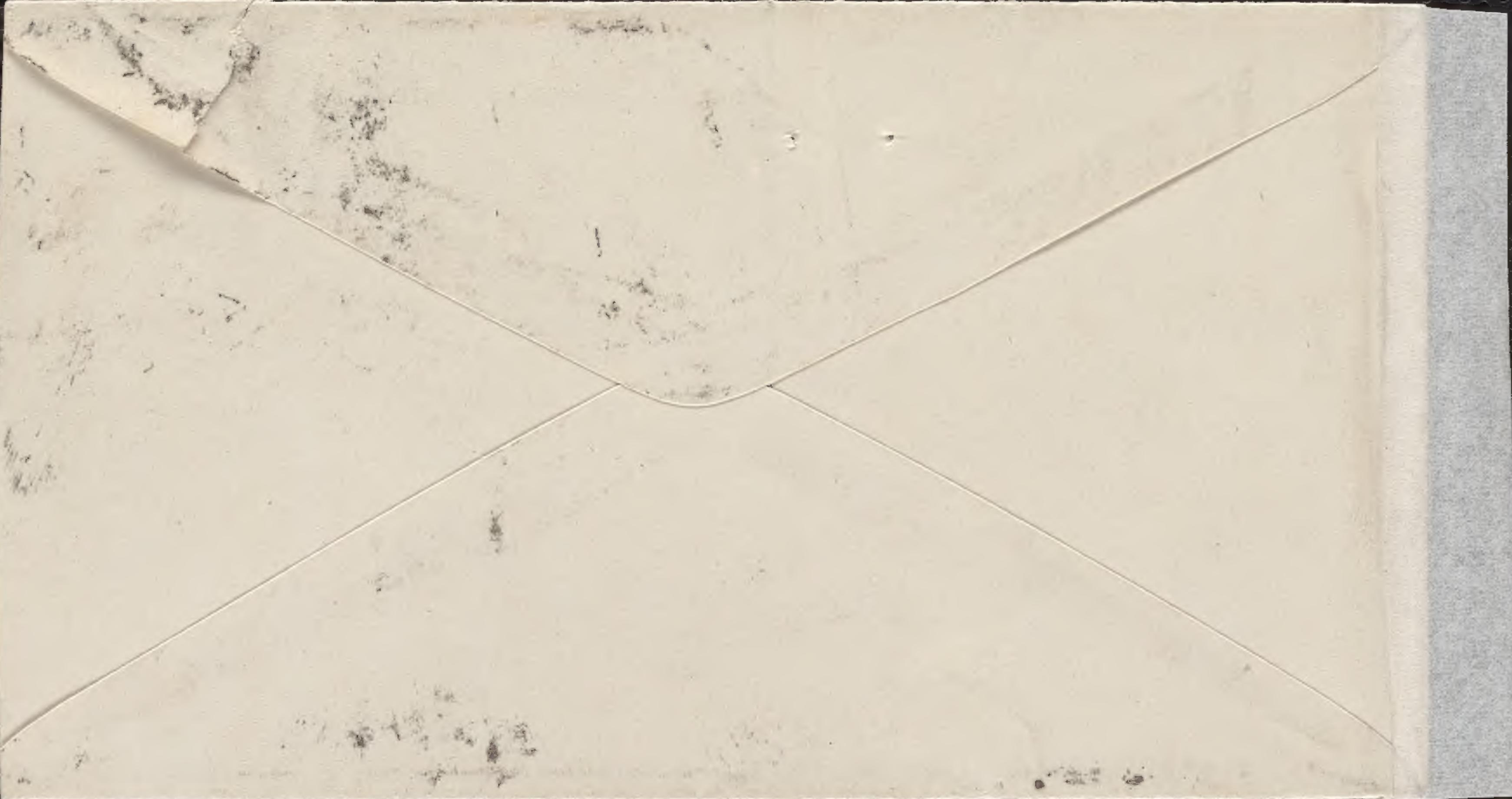


MSS. Acc. 2705 (30)

Rec'd Jan. 1/76

Rev. Samuel May,  
Leicester,  
Mass.





you good days and years to come! How more to  
say? What you say, your respects and regards  
and many, ~~best~~<sup>open</sup> regards from much obliged  
friends to all the family.

Roxbury, Dec. 31, 1875.

Dear friend May:

It is too late to wish you "a merry  
Christmas," but not to invoke for you and  
yours "a happy New Year." May it indeed  
prove to you all the happiest of the whole  
series yet experienced by you.

We had a very pleasant observance  
of Christmas Eve, under our own roof. True  
to the German custom, Mr. Villard caused  
a tall and shapely evergreen tree to be erect-  
ed in our parlor, whereon were hung many  
beautiful ornaments and pretty gifts for our  
dear grandchildren — six of the eleven hav-  
ing been present, to behold with wondering  
eyes and joyous spirits the really brilliant  
spectacle. Several of our friends and neigh-  
bors were with us on the occasion, and  
congratulations and kind wishes were most  
abundant. To-morrow evening we shall

cause the tree to be again illuminated, as  
inaugurating the centennial year.

Your letter of the 29th has just come  
to hand, acknowledging the receipt of the  
volume of Whittier's Poetical Selections,  
which I left for you at Mrs. Boardman's.  
As it was uncertain whether you had al-  
ready obtained a copy, I took the precau-  
tion to inscribe your name with my own  
on an accompanying slip of paper, which, if  
not lost, you may affix to one of the blank  
leaves.

I was quite sure that you would  
be pleased with the volume, alike in regard  
to its literary taste and poetic discrimi-  
nation. Your warm eulogium is an exact  
expression of my estimate of it. I should  
have omitted some pieces in the closing por-  
tion, and substituted others more worthy (in  
my judgment) of a place in such a collec-  
tion; but, as a whole, it is certainly admira-  
ble, and worthy a place in every house-  
hold.

In addition to this compilation are those by Bryant and Dana, and the "10001  
<sup>(1000)</sup> Gems" by Charles Mackay; each having its own distinctive features, and the whole making a copious library of the choicest poetry from the days of Chaucer to our own.

For several years I have had a strong desire to make an additional compilation, covering a very different field of thought and sentiment; and, having secured the materials, nothing but the pecuniary risk has deterred me from publishing the same. Its title would probably be, "Poems of Freedom, Philanthropy, Reform, and Progress"—the inspirational efforts of the best poets on both sides of the Atlantic, such as would serve to stimulate and strengthen in the future all the struggling friends of humanity and liberty, and such as might readily be referred to at any moment by those desirous of choice and pertinent extracts. A cen-

tennial year would be a particularly appropriate one for the appearance of such a volume. I cannot but regard it as somewhat singular that so few poems, of the kind I have referred to, are to be found in any of the compilations already named. Even Whittier has almost wholly omitted them; and yet very many of them deserve to be printed in letters of gold, and perpetuated for the quickening of the centuries to come.

My dear friend, the few slight tokens of my regard for you are scarcely worth your reference. You have placed me and mine under life-long obligations, and in no way can we adequately express the gratitude we feel.

I was extremely sorry not to be at home when you and your beloved daughter called at my house, as you may readily suppose.

Ever truly yours, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.